# PEOPLE & THINGS: By ATTICUS

ALF a milition words of function party in London in that judicially but somewhat sceptically Canadian border, and which has Sir Winston Churchill's crists of his life. The other guests in "The Book Collector." "History of the Englishspeaking Peoples" are already written and are in the safe of Messrs. Cassells. Sir Winston's publishers, where they have been for more than fifteen

The work was commissioned by Cassells in the thirties, and Sir Winston had aimost completed it by the time war came. It was then put in cold storage, and it is only now that the work of polishing the typescript has begun in the Hotel Politi in

The first volume will be published by Cassells next spring, and there will be four in all.

### The Preface

AM told by someone who has seen the manuscript that it contains some of Sir Winston's finest prose and that it sparkles with excitement and humour.

The work starts with English prehistory and proceeds through the growth of England and the development of the British Empire to the discovery and history of

Mr. Henry Luce, who with Mrs. Luce arrived at the Hotel Politi on the same day as Sir Winston, has been trying to persuade him to link up the History with his six volumes of war-time memoirs by means of a long preface which would cover the cold war and the development of Anglo-American relations up to the date of Sir Winston's resignation.

This preface, if it comes to be written, and part of the first volume, will be serialised this year in "Life" magazine and will complete the most costly series ever published in a magazine or newspaper, the total price paid for the American serialisation rights of Sir Winston's post-war books being, I believe, more than £500,000.

## The Great Man

WHEN Dr. Einstein came to London in September, 1933, after his exile from Germany, his life was thought to be in danger and the place of his residence was kept secret. At first his host in England, the late Commander Oliver Locker-Lampson, provided rooms for him and his wife at a house in Earls Court.

were E. V. Lucas and Herbert Sidebotham.

Einstein talked most of the time In his extraordinarily soft, quiet way, and we were all profoundly impressed by his character. I have always thought of him since as a good, as well as a great, man, and I believe he made the same impression on all who saw him face to

He spoke of his enemies in Germany with a noble magnanimity. There was not a word of resentment for the cruel wrongs he had suffered. Even when one or other of us expressed indignation and sympathy, he would not be drawn into censure. Indeed, he seemed to see in the years after the war some excuse for the Nazi revolution.

## First Printed Book?

WITH my thoughts running on rare books and record prices after the saie at Sotheby's after the sale at Sotheby's of an Audubon for £9,200, I was

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interested to read in the current number of "The Book Collector about a book worth at least five times as much. This is the almost egendary Constance Missal, a copy of which has recently been acquired by the Pierpont Morgan Library from a small Swiss monastery. Its importance lies in the fact that some experts believe that it takes precedence over the famous Gutenberg Bible as the first book ever printed from metal type.

The learned world is now waiting for the Morgan Library's Dr. Buhler to substantiate this revo-

# Book-collecting Secrets

In the same issue there is fascinating inside information by an expert on trends in modern first-edition collecting.

I was interested to lear, for instance (and to note the number of poets represented), that the conor poets represented, that are con-temporary writers whose first editions are most in demand are the following: Dylan Thomas, Alex Comfort, Sudney Keys, Alun Lewis, Anthony Powell, Lawrence Durrell, William Empson, Henry Green, John Betjeman, Christopher Green, John Betjeman, Christopher Fry, Joyce Cary and Graham Greene.

#### Grim Record

THE largest single pile of gramo-phone records at the Liberty Music Shop in New York is devoted to "The Investigator," a slice of rasping political satire recorded in Canada by Reuben Ship and John Drainie, two stars of Canadian radio and theatre. The Investigator" is killed in

an aeroplane crash and finds him-self in Heaven (or "Up Here," as it is called), where he himself comes under the Investigation Committee on Permanent Entry, consisting of Titus Oates, the English con-spirator, Torquemada, the Spanish inquisitor, Cotton Mather, the Massachusetts witch-hunter, and George Jeffreys, the hanging judge of the Bloody Assizes.

"The Investigator" has no diffi-culty in disrupting this motley panel by suggesting that their chairman, "The Head Gatekeeper," has been careless about admitting subversives into "Up Here," and the Gatekeeper's resignation is forced.

#### Subversive Elements

"THE Investigator" is unanimously appointed chairman in his place and immediately orders the review of suspicious entries. entries. They include Socrates, Jefferson, Milton, Voltaire, John Stuart Mill, Luther, Spinoza, Shelley and Abraham Lincoln: these and many others are given summary hearing and promptly deported to "Down There."

Drunk with success, "The Investigator" attempts to issue a subpoena on "The Chief" but this is too much for "Up Here" and he is deported—only to be rejected even by "Down There," with a grisiy dénouement which I will not spoil.

"The Investigator," which runs house in Earls Court.

There I was privileged to be at one of the greatest of living at the post-war inquisition which "That's not the way to make a what I believe was his first incunabulists, reviews the evidence has been operating across the Martini!"

themselves. But I am advised that any resemblance between the velvet snari of "The Investigator" and the voice of Senator McCarthy is purely coincidental.

#### Young Artists

ALMOST without exception the painters on view at the "Daily Express" Young Artists' Exhibition, to be seen at the New Burlington Galleries, until May 21, have come out against the portrayal of the seamler side of modern existence. The subjects range from the literary expression of Mr. Lucien whose "Hotel Room Freud, rredu, whose "Hotel Room" neatly states but never quite ex-plains the relationship between its two occupants, to the "Reclining Figure" of Mr. Donald Fraser, a blood-red canvas which constantly draws the eye. One imagines the ludges' task was not too difficult : the prize-winning entries stand out like scariet coats in an autumnal dusk.

#### The Speed of Spring

AN interesting fact that came famine way during the news famine is that spring travels northwards at a rate of seventeen miles per day.

This vital piece of information

was thrown out quite casually by the "New York Times," but a helpful expert at the Meteorologi-cal Office explained that this generalisation is based on the fact that the sun moves from the Equator northwards a total of land approximately sixty-seven miles and there are ninety-two days in "official" spring, by multiplying 23½ deg. by sixty-seven and dividing by ninety-two, the sun (bringing the spring with it) is now travelling seventeen miles now travelling seventeen miles

# The Compleat Traveller

northwards each day.

NEW recruit to the "Mounties" A was being despatched to the wilds of the North-West on a lone

and perilous mission. Before he left, his commanding officer handed him a miniature cocktail shaker and two small bottles containing gin and

"What am I to do with those sir? I don't drink."

"They're in case you get lost."
"I don't get you, sir."
"If you think you're lost, empty
those two bottles into the Shaker. put in some hunks of ice and shake vigorously. Before you've shaker very long somebody's bound to